

# Rockford Historic Preservation Commission

January 10, 2012 — 6:00 PM

**Present:** Mark McGinnis, Janna Bailey, Vickie Krueger, David Hagney

**Absent:** Alderman Doug Mark, Scott Sanders

**Staff:** Jessica Roberts, Historic Preservation Secretary

**Other:** Interested Parties

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## Approval of Minutes

A **MOTION** was made by David Hagney to **APPROVE** the minutes of the December 13, 2011 meeting as presented. The Motion was **SECONDED** by Janna Bailey and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4-0.

## Elections

Elections were moved to the end of the Agenda.

## New Business

None

## Certificate of Appropriateness

### **220 S Madison – Millennium Center**

Matt Marshall, the applicant, presented an overview of the signs proposed for the site. Mr. Marshall stated that the signage is in keeping with their branding that was developed for the Millennium Center and was placed on the property where old signage was when they changed hands. David Hagney stated that he did not have concerns with the signage excepting the signage on the street facing Madison. His concern was with the way the sign was placed on the building and its conflict with the line of the canopy or the signage and the aesthetics of the building. Specifically, the concern was with the character of the building and the effect the sign had on that. He stated that block aluminum letters would be more appropriate. Mr. Marshall stated that the sign was more of a temporary sign and when the sign became in disrepair they would be happy to revisit putting a new sign up that is more in character with the building. Some discussion was made on how the signage could be changed to lessen the effect. Mr. Marshall stated that they are trying to keep the business going and would appreciate maintaining the existing sign as is at this point. David Hagney asked how the signage was attached on to the structure on Madison Street. Mr. Marshall stated that it was wood painted with clear varnish. Mr. Hagney asked staff how the commission has jurisdiction over the signs. Ms. Roberts stated that whenever there is a sign, a building permit is required. She stated that prior to installing a sign in the Historic District they need to acquire a COA. The applicant did not obtain a building permit and did not go through the certificate of appropriateness process for the signs. A letter was sent to the applicant informing them of this. If previous signage was installed without the knowledge of staff then that was the case but Ms. Roberts stated that it is in her information that the most recent signage was the N Center. The last sign installed obtained a COA, the N Center signage in 2008. Mark McLinnis asked if the previous signage on the canopy that the applicants were referencing for the health department was placed on the canopy. Mr. Marshall stated that past Winnebago County Health Department signage was actually placed in the window not on the canopy. Mark McLinnis asked if there could be a compromise where they could put the block lettering on the signage but also keep their branding. The commission concurred that the biggest concern with the signage was the one on Madison Street because of its effects on the character of the building. David Hagney stated that a sign placed above the canopy would be less of a concern. Mark McLinnis stated that when looking at the design guidelines, wood is the material of choice. David Hagney stated that metal blocks placed along the canopy or signage above the canopy, so it is not interfering with the line of the building, would be ideal. Mr. Hagney stated that

black block letters across the horizontal line would look better. Matt Marshall stated that they would prefer not to change the signage because it is already up. Because the sign is more of a temporary structure the commission resolved to keep the signage as it is.

A **MOTION** was made by David Hagney to **Approve** the proposed signage. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Vickie Krueger and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4-0.

Scott Sanders made a **MOTION** and nominated Mark McInnis to serve as Chairman, Alderman Doug Mark **SECONDED** the motion. Mr. McInnis accepted. Mr. McInnis was made **Chairman** by a vote of 4-0.

Scott Sanders made a **MOTION** and nominated David Hagney to serve as Vice-Chairman, Mark McInnis **SECONDED** the motion. Mr. Hagney accepted. David Hagney was made **Vice-Chairman** by a vote of 4-0.

### **Elections**

Vickie Krueger made a **MOTION** and nominated David Hagney to serve as Chairman, Janna Bailey **SECONDED** the motion. David Hagney accepted. David Hagney was made **Chairman** by a vote of 4-0.

Vickie Krueger made a **MOTION** and nominated Janna Bailey to serve as Vice-Chairman, David Hagney **SECONDED** the motion. Janna accepted. Janna Bailey was made **Vice-Chairman** by a vote of 4-0.

### **Other Items**

Ms. Roberts presented the draft annual report. The commission asked staff to add more details with regards to the other National Register applications in the year along with the resolutions for the Kishwaukee and Prospect property violations.

Mark McInnis made a **MOTION** to approve the draft annual report with the suggested additions. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Vickie Krueger and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4-0.

Ms. Roberts presented the updated Meeting Schedule for 2012 that was revised.

Mark McInnis made a **MOTION** to approve the 2012 Historic Preservation Committee Meeting Schedule as November was changed to the first Tuesday of that month due to the holiday. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Vickie Krueger and **CARRIED** by a vote of 5-0.

### **Staff Report**

Ms. Roberts provided copies of the information on the State Historic Tax Credits which described the draft program. She stated that she would email all the documents to the members along with the power point presentation that was given by the State Preservation Office. She described the pilot program that is taking place in Illinois. Properties that fall within River Edge and contributing property within the Historic District as defined in the statute. She added that there are several criteria that allow the buildings to be eligible for the credits. Ms. Roberts stated that it is her intention to compile a list of eligible properties in a packet for informational purposes for those parties that are interested in the program in the future.

With no other business a **MOTION** was made by Mark McInnis to adjourn the meeting of January 10, 2012. The Motion was **SECONDED** by Vickie Krueger and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by Jessica Roberts, Rockford Historic Preservation Secretary